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This High, Lonely Office

Pro-Administration Views Disputed

The Ad Hoc Citizens' Committee for Fairness to The Presidency's advertisement (August 6, page A14) strikes me as a piece of sheer propaganda that must be answered point by point.

President Nixon was not elected on a promised detente with communism but on a promise to end the war in Southeast Asia. The foreign policy motto remains "bombs make peace." In domestic policy he promised economic revitalization, but the motto has become "let 'em eat cake."

The ad's 19 signators claim that the members of the special Watergate committee, a group of senators the majority of which has regularly aligned itself with the administration in congressional voting, is now "out to get" the President. To accuse Senator Montoya of "hostile anti-administration tones" revealing his "presumption of the President's guilt" is a perceptual autism attributable only to a case of mistaken identity. It is in fact this paranoid siege mentality that has landed the administration forces in their present predicament.

Senator Baker would be considered objective but for his insistence that the President produce the tapes. Such insistence has also been viewed as evidence that the committee is out to get the President, but in fact many of the

President's closest friends and advisors suggest that he could clear himself simply by turning over the tapes. Could not the Watergate committee also have this in mind when requesting the tapes?

These men claim that only John Dean's biased testimony reflects on the administration, but in fact the witnesses have tended overwhelmingly to support Dean's story. On the other hand, to believe the President's chief mouthpiece, John Ehrlichman, on all points one must assume that at least 18 other witnesses are lying.

All of the witnesses, not just Halde- man and Ehrlichman, have been loyal Nixon supporters; members and former members of the CIA, and an FBI director have given damaging testimony. Are these people "out to get" the President also?

Finally, surrealistically, comes an appeal for money. The American people have contributed enough, through misguided political contributions and simply by paying their taxes, to the spread of the administration's "fairness." We can only assume that contributions will come, once more, in briefcases full of hundred-dollar bills.

DAVID L. IMHOFF.

Laurel, Md.